

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05
/048 W

-----017981 121049Z /15

R 120630Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2423
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV PINT PP
SUBJ: PNG NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

1. WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE VOTING TALLY SHOULD BE
COMPLETED THIS WEEK. WE NOW HAVE 81 DECLARED WINNERS
AND 21 PROBABLE VICTORS. THE BREAKDOWN PER PARTY IS AS BELOW:

PART	DECLARED	PROBABLE	TOTAL
PANGU	25	2	27
INDEPENDENT (PRO-PANGU)	5	0	5
PPP	14	3	17
INDEPENDENT (PRO-PPP)	2	0	2
UNITED PARTY	17	5	22
INDEPENDENT (PRO-UP)	1	2	3

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PAPUA BESENA	2	4	6
COUNTRY PARTY	1	0	1
NEW GUINEA NATL PARTY	1	0	1

MATAUNGAN ASSN	2	1	3
BOUGAINVILLE MEMBERS	4	0	4
INDEPENDENT-NO KNOWN			
AFFILIATION	7	4	11

TOTALS	81	21	102

THERE ARE SEVEN ELECTORATES YET TO COUNT AND ONE ELECTORATE FOR WHICH A BY-ELECTION IS TO BE HELD IN AUGUST. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PARTY AFFILIATION IS EXTREMELY FRAIL AND DEFECTIONS FROM ONE PARTY TO ANOTHER MAY BE ANTICIPATED IN THE COALITION PROCESS.

2. PANGU, WHICH HAD 21 SEATS BEFORE THE ELECTION, HAS BOTH INCREASED ITS NUMBERS (TO 27 PLUS 5 INDEPENDENTS) AND BROADENED ITS GEOGRPAHICAL BSE (BY PICKING UP PERHAPS 10 SEATS IN THE HIGHLANDS).

3. PPP, WHICH HAD 16 SEATS PREVIOUSLY, WILL PROBABLY END UP WITH 17 TO 19, PLUS 2 INDEPENDENTS, AND HAS MADE INROADS INTO THE HIGHLANDS FOR THE FIRST TIME (4 SEATS IN SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS).

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4. UNITED PARTY, WHICH HAD HIGH HOPES FOR A DRAMATIC INCREASE ABOVE THE 32 SEATS IT HELD PREVIOUSLY, HAS HAD ITS HOPES DASHED. IT SHOULD BE NEVERTHELESS END UP WITH ABOUT 25 SEATS. OF SIGNIFICANCE IS THAT ITS GRIP HAS BEEN LOOSENED IN THE HIGHLANDS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

5. PRIOR TO ELECTION UNITED PARTY TALKEDIN TERMS OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL COALITION WITH PANGU AND PPP, WITH UNITED AS THE SECOND-RANKING COALITION PARTNER. NOW IT STILL DESPERATELY HOPES TO JOIN SUCH COALITION AND COULD BE BOUTH CHEAPLY. SOMARE HAS FOR THE INTERIM PUBLICLY REJECTED BRINGING UNITED PARTY IN.

6. PAPUA BESENA HAS INCREASED ITS NUMBERS (PROBABLY TO ABOUT 6) AND HAS ACHIEVED A CONSIDERABLE VICTORY IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGIONAL BY JOSEPHINE ABAIJAH'S HEAVY DEFEAT OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SIR MAORI KIKI. (LATEST FIGURES ARE 12,600 FOR ABAIJAH TO 6,100 FOR KIKI.)

7. NEXT PARLIAMENT SHOULD SEE FROM2-3 WOMEN, UP FROM ONE, AND A LESSENING OF EXPATRIATES FROM 8 TO 4.

8. THE FOLLOWING MAJOR PERSONALITIES HAVE BEEN RE-ELECTED OR ELECTED:

PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL SOMARE (PANGU)

FINANCE MINISTER JULIUS CHAN (PPP)

JUSTICE MINISTER EBIA OLEWALE (PANGU)

SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT BARRY HOLLOWAY (PANGU)

FATHER JOHN MOMIS (BOUGAINVILLE) (INDEPENDENT)

MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OSCAR TAMMUR (MATAUNGAN)
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DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT JOHN KAUTIN (MATAUNGAN)

SIR JOHN GUISE (FORMER GOVERNOR-GENERAL) (INDEPENDENT)

JOSEPHINE ABAIJAH (PAPUA BESENA)

SIR TEI ABAL, UP LEADER IS FAVORED BUT NOT CERTAIN (UNITED)

9. THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT CANDIDATES WERE NOT RETURNED:

SIR MAORI KIKI, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PANGU)

PAUL LANGRO, DEPUTY LEADER OF UNITED PARTY

SINAKE GIREGIRE, LEADER OF COUNTRY PARTY

SIR PAUL LAPUN, MINISTER BN HEALTH (PANGU)

LEO HANNETT (BOUGAINVILLE) (INDEPENDENT, PRO-PPP)

10. BUILDING THE COALITION: SOMARE CLEARLY HOLDS THE WHIP HAND. WHILE PROBABLY NOT HAVING ENOUGH STRENGTH TO ESTABLISH A COALITION OF PANGU AND INDEPENDENTS ALONE, HE IS IN A POSITION TO PLAY THE UNITED PARTY AND THE PEOPLES PROGRESS PARTY AGAINST EACH OTHER IN BIDDING FOR SECOND PLACE IN COALITION. SO FAR, HE HAS REJECTED UNITED PARTY EFFORTS TO JOIN COALITION AND APPEARS TO BE MOVING TOWARD RE-ESTABLISHING A PANGU/PPP COALITION AND HAS INITIATED TALKS WITH JULIUS CHAN. WE BELIEVE A PANGU/PPP COALITION IS THE MOST PROBABLE SCENARIO, WITH SOMARE PERHAPS ALSO DRAWING SOME INDEPENDENTS AND SOME, IF NOT ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOUGAINVILLE AND MATAUNGAN WINNERS. HE COULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO WIN
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OVER SELECT HIGHLANDERS FROM UNITED PARTY AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF PAPUA BESENA. CHAN IS ALLEGEDLY QUITE PUT OFF BY THE DECIDEDLY HOSTILE CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED AGAINST HIM BY OSCAR TAMMUR, MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND A MATAUNGAN, FROM OUTSIDE CHAN'S DISTRICT. THERE ARE ALSO SOME WITHIN PANGU WHO WOULD GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO OUST THE PPP AND CHAN. SOMARE AND CHAN WILL PROBABLY OVERCOME THESE PROBLEMS, BUT UNTIL THE COALITION IS FIXED, IT MUST BE CONSIDERED OPEN.

11. IF PANGU IS TO ARROGRANT IN THE FLUSH OF VICTORY, IT IS STILL MATHEMATICALLY POSSIBLE FOR ALL PARTIES TO GANG UP ON IT AND FORM A COALITION (WHICH WOULD BE QUITE UNSTABLE) FORCING PANGU INTO THE OPPOSITION. THIS PRESUMABLY WOULD BE LED BY FORMER GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR JOHN GUISE. OLMSTED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTM00903
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770247-0218
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770767/aaaacfut.tel
Line Count: 190
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: e604e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1888837
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PNG NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e604e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009